

Message Text

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 01134

FOR: IOR IBS IPS, CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR

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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS MEDIA REACTION

1. THE CHRISTCHURCH PRESS, MARCH 7, IN ITS SECOND EDITORIAL, UNDER THE HEADING "HUMAN RIGHTS AND BELGRADE," COMMENTED:
 2. "ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET UNION APPEARS TO BE HAVING ITS OWN WAY OVER THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, THE TALKS HELD IN BELGRADE HAVE NOT LEFT THE SOVIET UNION UNSCATHED.
 3. "THE AGREED DOCUMENT WILL HAVE NEXT TO NOTHING TO SHOW. YET THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS HAD A THOROUGH AIRING. THE EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES AMONG THE 35 NATIONS FROM EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE, THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND NORTH AMERICA, TRIED TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT THE CONFERENCE WAS REALLY DOMINATED BY QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
 4. "WHAT WAS BEING DISCUSSED WAS DETENTE. THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, TO THEIR CREDIT, WERE INTENT ON IMPROVING HUMAN
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- RELATIONSHIPS - PART OF THE "BASKET OF 3" OF THE CONFERENCE. THE DIFFICULTY IS IN ASSESSING THE GAINS...
5. "YET IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO DISMISS THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE REVIEW AS WASTED. THE VICTORIES MAY BE FOUND NOT IN THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, OR THE CEASING OF POLITICAL TRIALS, BUT IN THE FACT THAT FEWER

ARE ARRESTED. THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE DISSIDENTS MEANS THAT THE NUMBERS OF VICTIMS HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO CONTAIN THE EMBARRASSMENT THEY CAUSE.

6. "SOME COMFORT IS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET UNION SAT OUT ALL THE TALKS...

7. "OTHER TALKS ON DETENTE CONTINUE. OCCASIONALLY PROGRESS APPEARS TO BE MADE ON THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, SOMETIMES THE TALKS ABOUT MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE SEEM TO BE GETTING SOMEWHERE, AND SOMETIMES IT LOOKS AS IF NUCLEAR TEST-BANS WILL CONTINUE FOR A VERY LONG TIME. LINKS EXIST AMONG ALL THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AS WELL AS WITH DISCUSSIONS IN THE UNITED NATIONS. BUT TWO MATTERS CAST GLOOM OVER HOPES. ONE IS THE STRENGTH OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES IN EUROPE, WHICH IS INCREASING FAR BEYOND WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED REASONABLE FOR DEFENCE OF THE HOMELANDS: THE OTHER IS THE USE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA.

8. "THEIR PRESENCE STRENGTHENS THE HAND OF THE 'HAWKS' IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE WEST. PRESIDENT CARTER WANTS ACTUAL CUTS IN STRATEGIC ARMS, NOT JUST THE SETTING OF CEILINGS. THAT SHOULD TEST SOVIET INTENTIONS. ONE SERIOUS EFFORT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTROL ARMS SHOULD BE HEARTENING NEWS FOR EVERYONE. THE TROUBLE IS THAT IN THE INEVITABLE, JUSTIFIED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE MONTHS OF TALKS IN BELGRADE ACCOMPLISHED SO LITTLE ON PAPER, THE WHOLE MOMENTUM TOWARDS DETENTE MIGHT BE SLOWED. THE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN LESS CONFIDENT OF PEACE HAD THE TALKS BROKEN DOWN." ANDERSON

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